



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
April 14, 2008
5:00 P.M.
Council Office

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

D. Sterner, S. Marmarou, J. Waltman, S. Fuhs, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, V. Spencer

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

C. Younger, R. Hottenstein, L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, W. Heim, J. Ayala, J. Haney, K. Zeiber, C. Jones

Vaughn Spencer, President of Council, called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

I. Executive Session

Council entered into executive session to discuss personnel and litigation issues. Executive session ended at 6:30 pm.

II. Parking Authority – Abandoned Cars

Mr. Haney reviewed the background of the Parking Authority's request.

Mr. Waltman questioned where a citizen would call if a car was impounded. Mr. Haney noted that they would still call the Reading Police Department Desk Sergeant.

Mr. Waltman questioned if the Parking Authority would use the same criteria to declare a vehicle abandoned as the Police Department. Mr. Haney noted that they would as this is State regulation.

Mr. Waltman questioned who is authorized to place the sticker on the vehicle. Mr. Haney noted that both the Police Department and Parking Authority are authorized.

Mr. Waltman questioned why this action is necessary. Mr. Haney noted that there is currently a conflict between the towing company used by the Police Department and the towing company used by the Parking Authority.

Mr. Spencer questioned if Chief Heim was aware of the situation. Chief Heim suggested Council return to executive session to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Marmarou questioned who would receive the fines. Mr. Haney noted that the Parking Authority would receive the funds for vehicles they towed and the Police Department for vehicles they towed.

Mr. Waltman questioned why the Parking Authority contracted its own towing company. Mr. Haney noted that the City's towing company was not performing to reasonable standards. Mr. Haney further noted that this ordinance is needed to allow the Police Department to file the necessary forms for the Parking Authority towing company to salvage the vehicles.

Mr. Spencer questioned how this would impact the Police Department. Chief Heim again noted the need for an executive session.

III. Graffiti Removal

Mr. Zeiber reported that Public Works has removed graffiti from 327 sites within the last three months. He further reported that graffiti has been removed from 119 sites in the past ten days. He noted the difficulty removing graffiti during cold weather.

Mr. Sterner questioned how many Public Works staff is working on graffiti removal. Mr. Zeiber noted that one crew consisting of two people is assigned to this duty.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned the process of deciding what to remove first. Mr. Zeiber explained that high traffic sites are done first and others are grouped by location for efficiency.

IV. Executive Session

Council went back into executive session to discuss a personnel issue at 6:55 pm. Executive session ended at 7:04 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

By: _____
Linda A. Kelleher, City Clerk